The Middlebury Campus

VOL. CXXII, No. 2 MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 middleburycampus.com

Honor Code Review Committee report recommends changes to constitution

By EVAN WEISS
News Editor

The Honor Code Review Committee (HCRC) published an interim report this past May outlining themes in current Honor Code practice as well as recommendations to address the code's shortcomings. Just one month prior, 65% of Middlebury students self-reported having broken the Honor Code in The Campus' annual Zeitgeist survey, causing faculty, administrators and students to question what influence the policy still holds.

The draft report identified five overarching trends regarding the current Honor Code system: students regularly violate the Honor Code, holding students accountable to report their peers for violations is unrealistic, faculty should have the ability to proctor their exams, the Honor Code adjudication process is widely misunderstood, and the emergence of generative AI has complicated the line between authorized and unauthorized assistance.

The current report is based

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"FOR EVERY FUTURE" CAMPAIGN RAISES $465 MILLION

College launches new need-based aid challenge this fall

COURTESY PHOTO / JON REIDEL

A reception was held in Burlington in Dec. 2023 as one of the event series to fundraise for the "For Every Future" campaign.

By CAROLINE JIAO
News Editor

The "For Every Future" campaign recently entered its second year of public fundraising, having garnered significant momentum since its launch party last October. As of Sept. 3, 2024, the college had reached about 76% of its total fundraising goal and reached 71% alumni engagement, 14 percentage points short of its 85% goal, according to the campaign's website. The college is also currently running a new need-based aid challenge to raise money for financial aid.

Vice President for Advancement Dan Courcey acknowledged the campaign's momentum while emphasizing the importance of remaining diligent.

"We are still at the point where we're pinching ourselves that we are where we are for this campaign," he said. "It wouldn't be an understatement to say that this has been stupendously successful. That's hard for us to say things like that because that's not in our nature, but we're approaching almost two years ahead of schedule, which we didn't think was remotely possible."

The first year of the campaign received many unrestricted donations, which are gifts without specific restrictions on what they are used to fund, according to Courcey. The second year of the campaign's public phase is seeing more targeted donations, especially in support of financial aid that seeks to enhance college access.

Alanna Shanley '99, associate vice president for Advancement and co-executive director of "For Every

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MEET JOE RUSSELL, MIDDLEBURY'S NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS

By MAGGIE BRYAN & PHOEBE AN
Senior News Editor & Contributing Writer

For Joe Russell Middlebury's new Dean of Students, arriving on campus has been a whirlwind full of new joys and challenges. "You've heard the expression drinking from a fire hose?," he said in an interview with The Campus.

Russell arrived in August after nearly 20 years at the University of Vermont (UVM), where he most recently served as Assistant Dean of Students.

AlAt the same time, Russell says there have been snapshots from the past few weeks that affirm that this is the right step in his journey.

"It has been described to me as what's called a Middlebury moment," he said, "On first-year move in day, in the evening, we were on the schedule to do the picnic dinner out on the lawn of McCullough... I turn to the parents behind me in line, just to kind of make small talk... and as I'm talking, the dad says, You sound like a yardie, which is Jamaican for saying, 'you sound Jamaican'."

As it turns out, the parent was Jamaican and knows Russell's family in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

"It was a small, simple thing that happened, a simple interaction that helped me know, yeah, I think this is part of my journey," he said.

This small-world moment is

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MCAB REFORM BILL PASSED BY OUTGOING SGA LAST MAY AFTER HEATED DEBATE

By RYAN McELROY
Editor in Chief

COURTESY PHOTO / SUSAN LEIBOVITZ

MCAB recently co-hosted the fall concert with WRMC, bringing LAUNDRY DAY and Vundabar to the McCullough lawn.

As hundreds of students gathered on campus for a concert co-sponsored by the Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) last Friday, questions remain about the organization's future on campus. In the wake of legislation passed by members of the previous Student Government Association (SGA) last spring, MCAB and the new SGA administration will continue to grapple with how to best allocate concert funding and improve the organization's oversight this year.

Four months ago, the 2023–2024 SGA passed an amended version of the bill titled "Improving MCAB's Operations and Finance Oversight" on May 10, 2024, the contents of which were first publicly revealed by The Campus that week. The assembled senators voted 10–1 in favor of the proposal following a heated meeting that saw significant amendments and personal criticisms. These exchanges culminated in calls for four members of MCAB to resign from their positions and to face a formal student organization misconduct complaint.

Multiple MCAB members attended the SGA meeting, although they did not respond to calls for their resignation over criticism regarding their management of the organization's mid-six figure budget. The Campus requested and was granted permission by SGA to record their final meeting of the year.

Current SGA President B Striker '25 and Vice Presidents Talia Chang '26 and Daniza Tazabekova '26 declined an interview request for this article, citing time constraints and consultations with their advisor. They stated their intention to release a joint SGA–MCAB statement on the matter in the coming weeks. MCAB also declined to comment, citing the intention to publicize the same joint statement.

The amended concert committee

One point of contention resolved prior to the meeting was the bill's proposed effects on WRMC, the college's student-run radio station that co-hosts the fall concert with MCAB each year. The earlier draft had proposed reallocating WRMC's fall concert funding to a new student-run concert committee, which would have also taken control of MCAB's $180,000 concert budgets.

"We realized that WRMC has a lot of unique aspects to their concerts and they do a lot of different stuff," said Abed Abbas '24, then-SGA president. "We feel like putting WRMC into this transition might

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LOCAL

Over 300 people run in MALT's 21st TAM Trek

By SIMON SCHMIEDER
Contributing Writer

The 21st annual Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) Trek took place on Sunday, Sept. 15, hosted by the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT). The Trek's events included a 19-mile loop of the entire trail, 5k and 10k races, and a two-mile fun run open to adult runners and walkers, young children and dogs.

As in previous years, the start and finish area was located by the entrance to Wright Park. The full race began at 7:30 a.m. and parents and kids took their marks at 10 a.m for the two-mile run, the day's final race. Behind the finish line, local vendors provided snacks and other refreshments, allowing everyone from seasoned trail runners to middle schoolers to refuel after the race.

The TAM Trek is just one of the many programs and services that MALT has sponsored over the trail's 35-year history, according to their website. In addition to the race, the organization has hosted birding, nature art walks, volunteer trail cleaning and other trail-related community events. MALT is also responsible for the maintenance of the TAM, spending over $50,000 annually on upkeep and conservation costs. Part of the funding comes from events like the TAM Trek, as proceeds from Sunday's race will go to supporting the continued preservation of the trail network.

Participation in this year's Trek was the highest on record. Jamie Jo Horton, executive director of MALT, explained that the Trek had surpassed 300 race entries for the first time; she also expects this year's fundraising to be a record high.

"We actually have a record number of participants this year — we broke 300 for the first time, so that's really exciting," Horton said.

"We'll also probably break a fundraising record too," she added.

The setting of new records extended beyond just

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LOCAL

Zig Zag Lit Mag celebrates release of Issue No. 17
By MADELEINE KAPTEIN

Chim Chimney bakery comes to Middlebury
By KATRINA SCHWARZ

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OPINIONS

A call to stay engaged after the presidential debate
By CHARLOTTE ROBERTS

On a new admissions process without affirmative action
By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

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ARTS & CULTURE

LAUNDRY DAY and Vundabar rock start of semester
By GUS MORRILL

College Museum unveils Awe-some art exhibit
By NATHAN BERNAZZANI

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SPORTS

Field hockey squeaks by Babson 2–1 to continue undefeated season
By JACK McGUIRE

Data is driving men's soccer's dominant start
By JONATHAN BUCHHOLZ

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MULTIMEDIA

West Cemetery: An overlooked corner of campus
By JUNE SU

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MCAB reform bill passed by outgoing SGA last May after heated debate

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be rushed and might be a lot, so we don't want to force it until all the considerations are made."

Around $50,000 each year from WRMC's budget would have been placed into the new committee, according to Abbas and the earlier version of the SGA bill. The final version of the bill did not create a concert committee and did not affect WRMC's funding allocation; it only recommended exploring changes to the funding structures this year.

The earlier draft of the bill was heavily amended during the SGA meeting on May 10 after facing harsh criticism from representatives of the SGA Finance Committee (SGAFC) and Student Activities Office (SAO). They felt the necessary stakeholders had not been adequately consulted for such an ambitious proposal.

"This bill does not have the support of the finance committee, which I think is an important stakeholder in this whole process," said Cole Siefer '25, co-director of the SGAFC, referring to the clauses establishing the concert committee. "I think it permanently changes the structure of concert funding and operations on campus because of the disappointment with current MCAB leadership, which seems like a disproportionate response to these concerns."

One issue was the timing of the bill: As that year's final General Assembly, it was the last opportunity for the assembled senators and executive team to vote on reforming MCAB before the newly-elected representatives took over. This prompted questions from some who believed such a rush was unnecessary in light of promises from various stakeholders to continue working through the issues.

"I would urge you all to consider this rather than implementing a bill that mandates this committee, implementing a bill that recommends that this be explored," said Valerie Nettleton, advisor to SGA and director of Student Involvement & Leadership Development. "I don't think there is harm in waiting for a year."

A statement written by David Wilder, SAO director of programming and events and the advisor for MCAB, was read aloud at the meeting. In the statement, he described his opposition to creating a concert committee via legislation.

"I am in support of a transition to a concert committee model in the future as a concept. However, it has come to light that some of my colleagues and several other key stakeholders who are essential partners in executing a successful transition feel the current draft of the bill is too ambitious and unrealistic to implement," he wrote.

The amended version of the bill ultimately recommended the exploration of new funding procedures for various allocations currently made to MCAB. Representatives of SGAFC expressed satisfaction with the improvements made in the final bill.

"A hot button issue"

Central to the conflict last May was the purchase of luxury winter coats for MCAB board members, a decision approved by the organization's advisor, yet sharply criticized by the assembled senators.

"Regarding the jackets, which I know is a hot button issue," Nettleton began. "The plan that was communicated to the advisor at the time of approval was that those jackets were going to be embroidered and were going to be MCAB jackets, and that played into part of the approval process."

The jackets did not receive any additions to mark them as related to Middlebury College or MCAB specifically; the total expenditure for the coats was approximately $2,600, according to The Campus' prior reporting.

"The majority of the funds to pay for those jackets were taken either out of their gift account or departmental money. A portion of it was taken out of the operation," Nettleton clarified, citing an exception in the student handbook for MCAB that allows such expenditures but was intended for other purposes.

Some senators took issue with the idea of any executive merchandise costing several hundred dollars per item.

"I just find it kind of ridiculous that each of those jackets is over $250, and that it's okay to just add an embroidery if that was the original vision," said Catherine Kish '24, then-senior senator and general assembly speaker.

Several other SGA senators voiced similar complaints specifically about the jackets to The Campus last May; MCAB and the SAO have largely stood by the approved expenditure.

Calls for MCAB resignations

After the bill was passed, conversation turned to the room's collective anger towards specific members of MCAB as debate grew more intense and criticism more personal.

"They disrespect the students they serve," said Shane Silverman '24.5, then-Feb Senator, in reference to the 2023–24 MCAB leadership which made many of the controversial spending decisions last year. "I'm asking my fellow senators to consider asking four representatives on MCAB to resign by Saturday night. And if they don't do that, then I propose that we file a public official conduct complaint detailing our findings."

Representatives of SAO identified the official student organization misconduct process as the venue where such a complaint would go. From there, the director of Student Involvement & Leadership Development is empowered to decide if an investigation should proceed, according to the Student Organization Handbook.

Members of the SAO immediately took issue with the call for resignations and formal misconduct complaints, detailing the complex process for such an inquiry and the uncertain nature of a potential resolution. Instead, they urged reflection on the tone of discourse in the room and empathy for fellow students.

"I want to remind you that you are members of an institution that values restorative practices and educational sections and utilizing errors in judgment as learning opportunities to grow and develop," Nettleton said. She also cautioned SGA against developing a list of specific people that are responsible for the misconduct without formal investigation.

Anthony Makhovik '26.5, then-Feb senator, stated that he believed his constituents were understandably angry about what he saw as a misappropriation of student funding and abuse of power by MCAB leaders.

"People pay tuition, people pay the student activity fee, and a part of this went to personal gain," Makhovik said.

The accusations of theft towards MCAB members proved controversial in the room and prompted an extended exchange on a need for respect and professionalism in the debate.

The assembled body voted to ask for these members' resignations in private discussions and unanimously voted to begin the process of submitting a formal student misconduct complaint.

It is unclear if any of the four MCAB members resigned following the SGA call for action; at least one returning member is listed as the organization's president for this year on a publicly available web page.

With an MCAB double-header last weekend — the LAUNDRY DAY and Vundabar concert and Dunmore Day took place back-to-back on Friday and Saturday — the organization remains essential to the college's activities this fall. However, questions remain surrounding how the current SGA administration will seek to implement the reforms passed by its predecessors and what tone they will strike in the discourse surrounding MCAB's role on campus this year.

"An interesting paradox indeed, that we witnessed such personally harmful and destructive approaches to prove points and try to make positive changes," Wilder wrote, in reference to the debate surrounding MCAB last year. "I am hopeful we can all work together next year productively to repair relationships and restore collective faith in both our great organizations."

Editor's Note: Former Editor in Chief Maggie Reynolds '24 and Managing Editor Katie Futterman '24 contributed reporting to this article. Shane Silverman '24.5 is an Opinion Editor for The Campus; he had no involvement in editing this story.

The Middlebury Campus

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MIDDLEBURY NAMES NEW DEAN OF STUDENTS JOE RUSSELL

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representative of Russell's journey to Middlebury.

Originally from Kingston, Jamaica, Russell completed his undergraduate studies at Vassar College. After graduating he worked for two years at St. Lawrence University before starting as Director of Residential Life at UVM in 2005. At UVM, Russell held many roles, primarily in the Residential Life department. During his most recent position as Assistant Dean of Students, Russell led the UVM Care Team, which supports members of the UVM community at risk or in distress by connecting them with direct support. Russell also served as Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students and Crisis Support Chief for UVM's Emergency Operations Group. This February, Russell received UVM's Our Common Ground Staff Award, which recognizes staff members who have made extraordinary contributions to the UVM community.

Throughout his time at UVM, Russell looked forward to the chance to return to a smaller campus, with more opportunities to connect directly with students.

"It [UVM] felt to me, always like a big school, and that the dream job or the goal at some point would be to return to my roots of small liberal arts college," said Russell.

Russell's desire to connect with students shapes his work. Not only does it fuel him and bring him joy, but he also acknowledges that his position as Dean of Students necessitates authentic, trusting relationships with students. He described his role as a constant balancing act between a policy-making administrator and an outward-facing student advocate.

"I think it's telling when that balance is off-kilter. A Dean who is completely administrative and not connected to students, what's the point? … And a dean who is engaged in students and students love, but who isn't able to think about the systems that help, in a systemic way, the institution and students be successful, what's the point? So in my mind, in this role, there is this necessary balancing of the two," Russell said.

Russell is deeply committed to helping students navigate challenging situations, a responsibility he views as essential to fostering a thriving campus. A central aspect of this work involves supporting international, BIPOC and LGBTQ students. His own multifaceted identity, he believes, plays a role in that work.

"I grew up in Jamaica in a very religious context, in an arguably violently homophobic culture, and so didn't have many people that I would perceive as authority figures, that I could look to that held some of my identities as a gay young man. Growing up in the church, I didn't have any role model… it took a lot to get beyond that," said Russell.

Russell recognizes the importance of being open about those experiences and other components of his background.

"It's only a hope that it might spark some something positive for a student who even sees a small part for them reflected in some of my identities, and for students who maybe don't see parts of themselves reflected in my identities, that there was still a lot of joy and bridge difference and the different threads that weave the fabric of the cloth that we are," Russell said.

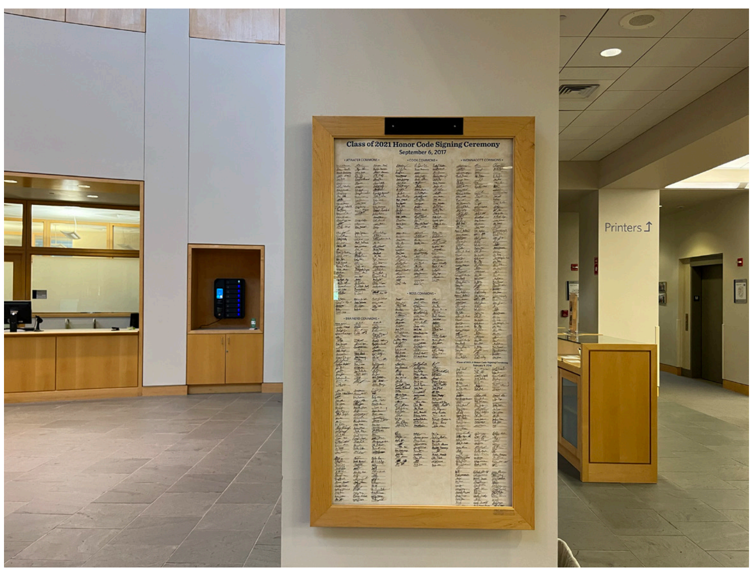
Throughout the challenging, often heavy responsibilities of the Dean of Students, Russell acknowledges the constant interplay between joy and pain. While holding that complexity has taken practice, he emphasizes that it is the presence of joy and hope that keeps him motivated.

"Throughout my life, certainly my career, it has taken practice…In really difficult circumstances there can be moments of joy and hope. Often it is both, in times of joy and hope there is pain and hurt that exist simultaneously," said Russell.

COURTESY PHOTO / JOE RUSSELL

New Dean of Students Joe Russell aims to lead with authenticity and openness.

Honor Code Review Committee report recommends changes to constitution



EVAN WEISS / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The class of 2021's signatures from the Honor Code Signing Ceremony, September 2017, are on display in Davis Family Library.

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on the HCRC's findings from three open meetings with faculty, an SGA consultation meeting, a survey of students, conversations with various academic and administrative departments, and individual feedback. The online survey sent to students in March 2023 received 53 responses.

The HCRC report notes that the Honor Code's idealistic, aspirational goals are failing to become reality.

"Overall, there appears to be a consensus among students, staff and faculty that while Middlebury culture does affirm the broad, basic idea that academic integrity is important and cheating is wrong, the reality of daily practice suggests that the Honor Code has ceased to be a meaningful element of learning and living at Middlebury for most students," the report stated.

In response to the committee's findings, the report proposes five recommendations for the community: to regularly affirm the meaning of academic integrity, including through reinstating an Honor Code signing ceremony; to remove the moral responsibility for students to report peers' violations; to clarify the process and consequences in cases of violations; to allow faculty to proctor exams at their discretion; and to clarify language surrounding AI use in the Honor Code and by each instructor.

Some of these proposed reforms have already been supported by students, including calls to mandate exam proctoring and to rebuild a culture of academic trust and respect on campus.

"I think that it would be respected if people saw punishment for breaking the Honor Code that was harsh," said Zeke Hooper '25. "If people were caught and were expelled — this would prevent a lot of cheating."

He also told The Campus that the principles of the Honor Code need to be more meaningfully and routinely ingrained in students, suggesting that each class hold a conversation around academic integrity at the beginning of the semester.

The HCRC's report was brought to faculty at the Bread Loaf meeting on Sept. 6 for discussion, and the committee continues to solicit community feedback through an online form. In an email to The Campus, the committee wrote that faculty responses and engagement have so far been mostly positive.

Professor of Mathematics and Statistics Emily Proctor is in favor of faculty being able to proctor exams when they deem necessary.

"I would support whatever creates the greatest level of trust between students and faculty. A learning environment is best when trust goes both ways," Proctor said.

The student-written Honor Code constitution reads that "Any member of the College community (student, faculty, or administrator) who is aware of a case of academic dishonesty is morally obligated to report it to the professor or the judicial affairs officer." The HCRC found that this expectation is unrealistic and places too great a burden on the reporter, recommending that an updated Honor Code remove the "morally obligated" language.

In order to institute this change or to allow faculty to proctor exams, the text of the constitution would need to be amended, requiring two-thirds of all undergraduate students to vote in a referendum and two-thirds of voting students to approve the changes. The committee's other recommendations could be implemented through a faculty vote.

The Honor Code constitution requires the code's language and implementation be re-examined by the HCRC — which includes faculty members from the Academic Integrity Committee and two students, one on the Judicial Board and one SGA-appointee — every four years. The previous review process was held during the 2016–17 academic year and because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the current cycle was delayed to the 2023–2024 academic year.

The HCRC told The Campus in an email that it plans to send the report, the feedback form and details about the referendum to the student body in the coming weeks.

Proctor expressed her hope that the values of the Honor Code can become a larger part of Middlebury culture and discourse, adding that her personal focus on ethical thinking and decision-making has deepened her self-confidence. She believed that the Honor Code can do the same for Middlebury students and faculty.

"I feel like it's good to be talking about the specifics of whether we proctor exams or not, but I feel like just having this part of our general community conversation — and really exploring it, not just saying don't do this — could really be powerful for the community," Proctor said.

"FOR EVERY FUTURE" CAMPAIGN RAISES $465 MILLION

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Future," noted that one of the most popular restrictions for donors to apply to their gifts is to offer financial aid gifts.

"We receive the most number of gifts for the alumni fund and parent's fund, which are unrestricted funds, and financial aid is the second most popular bucket that people put their dollars in," she said.

Courcey highlighted a new need-based aid challenge that will soon take place within the campaign. The goal of the initiative is to attract first-time financial aid donors who will have their donations matched by a portion of $10 million additional funds.

Jami Black, associate vice president for Advancement and co-executive director of the campaign, explained how the parameters of the college's fundraising efforts for need-based aid operate. In the wake of the Supreme Court's ban on affirmative action and decreased racial diversity in this year's first-year class, students in affinity groups have expressed concerns about the college's efforts to build diversity.

"In general, we can't restrict financial aid by race. Donors can only share a preference," she said. "The rule on affirmative action has already impacted our ability, but it has not lessened our ability to raise funds for financial aid dollars."

Courcey echoed the impact of the ruling but shared that the campaign continues to prioritize access to Middlebury as one pillar of its fundraising this year.

"A lot of the focus right now is on first-generation support," Courcey said.

Courcey mentioned the significant role that President Laurie Patton has played in the fundraising process. With the presidential position in transition, Courcey looks forward to working with the college's next leader on continuing the fundraising drive.

"Laurie Patton is leaving us in three months, so we've had to adjust the time frames for the campaign. I think our main objective is to hit the goal as early as we can and to celebrate that incredible victory of what we achieved, and then work with the new leader on new directions and new possibilities," he said.

Black added that fundraising will be an ongoing endeavor no matter who is serving as the college president.

"I'll just underscore that we never stop fundraising. We have campaigns, but outside of campaigns, we continue to fundraise. A campaign is just a hyperfocus during a period of time," she said. "We're always going to support — as much as we can — access, academic excellence and experiences as well as capital facilities building. It's just the vision changes with the new president."

One of the campaign's goals is to boost alumni engagement with the college's fundraising. On Sept. 18, the Middlebury community hosted a reception with Board of Trustees Chair Ted Truscott '83 in London, which is part of a series of in-person meetings in various cities with the largest alumni concentration. The college has previously hosted such events in Burlington, Boston, New York City and San Francisco. Other upcoming events are planned in Denver, Seattle, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

Shanley encouraged alumni to show their support for the campaign in various ways, including making a gift, attending an event, volunteering or communicating with the college in a one-on-one capacity.

"I would argue that the presidential search is a very cool and unique opportunity to engage in conversations with our alums as well, and that's happening," Courcey said. The college is currently running a survey for alumni that asks what their vision is for Middlebury in the future and what they hope to see addressed by the college's new president next year.

Shanley emphasized the importance of not just alumni contributions but all kinds of support, highlighting how central philanthropy is to the college's operations.

"Twenty-five to 30% of the college's operating budget is funded by philanthropy past and current, so we all benefit from generations of supporters who have put money in the endowment that keeps this institution running," she said. "Our job is to keep that going through current fundraising that serves our needs now and into the future."

COURTESY PHOTO / JON REIDEL

Future campaign receptions are also planned Denver, Seattle, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

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OVER 300 PEOPLE RUN IN MALT'S 21ST TAM TREK

Maggie Bryan / The Middlebury Campus
The 21st annual TAM Trek, hosted by the Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) took place this past Sunday, Sept. 15.

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participation and fundraising this year, though, as a new course record was set by runner Archibald Fraser.

Fraser explained that he had entered the Trek without any expectations, as he was more focused on an upcoming marathon at the end of this year. Crossing the line in just over two hours and eight minutes, Fraser secured a comfortable victory with an average pace of 6:46 per mile. A Vermonter himself, Fraser has run the Trek in previous years, giving him some experience with the TAM's technical features. After separating from the other front-runner late in the race, he managed to secure the win.

Cate Williams of Williston, Vt., age nine, won the two mile fun run and walk portion for the women's side with a time of 19:10. Aldo Howarth of Middlebury, age eight, hailing from Middlebury, Vt. achieved first place in the men's field of the two mile competition, coming in at 20:45.

The 5k race was won in the women's category by Cal Hobson at 22:51, and Hayden Laster clinched the win for the men's competition at 22:23.

Nathan McElrath won the men's 10k race with a time of 37:23, and Melissa Nestel took the victory for the women's 10k at 44:13.

For Sydney Rogers '25, running the TAM Trek has been a long-time goal. She registered with some friends, who were all striving to finish the 19-mile race around Middlebury.

"It's kinda always been on my bucket list and I'm a senior now so I figured if I was gonna do it, it had to be this year," Rogers said.

The TAM features a range of challenging terrains, from the rocky trails of the Otter Creek Gorge Preserve to a demanding ascent of Chipman Hill. Runners also had to navigate obstacles such as cow pasture fences, mud, dangerous footing, dense and tall grass, and constant hills.

Though these challenges are taxing, the race offers many rewarding elements. Runners cruised along the smooth trails of Battell Woods, enjoyed panoramic views of Vermont from Chipman Hill and frolicked through the fields by the Knoll.

With multiple access points from campus, the TAM is a great option for anyone seeking time outdoors, whether they are running, walking or biking.

However, Rogers and other Middlebury students added that the trail still seems underutilized amongst the Middlebury student body. Events like the TAM Trek provide a great opportunity for Middlebury students to engage with the excellent network of local trails, while also supporting an organization that ensures the TAM's continued existence and the communal benefits that accompany it.

ZIG ZAG LIT MAG CELEBRATES RELEASE OF ISSUE NO. 17, GATHERING ADDISON COUNTY WRITERS AND ARTISTS

By MADELEINE KAPTEIN
Managing Editor

On Sunday afternoon, a group of Addison County residents gathered in the cozy and historic barn at The Tillerman Inn in Bristol, Vt. to celebrate the release of Issue 17 of Zig Zag Lit Mag — a local arts and literature magazine — and its seventh accompanying poetry chapbook, "All the Grief" by Alice Eckles, a Middlebury-based artist and poet. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon during which 13 of the 31 total published writers and artists read their work from the new issue out loud, a biyearly tradition Zig Zag has upheld to commemorate every issue to date.

For the first half hour of the event, attendees mingled by the front steps of the barn and on The Tillerman's lawn. They sipped on cider, snacked on donuts and finger sandwiches, and visited the sales and merchandise table, where Zig Zag intern and Middlebury student Zara Johnson '24.5 was busy selling copies of the new issue, the chapbook and back issues of the magazine from previous seasons. Her table also offered Zig Zag merchandise including tote bags, bookmarks and stickers.

When Jay Dubberly, founder and Editor-in-Chief of Zig Zag, took to the microphone to kick off the beginning of the reading, attendees migrated with their purchased copies to their seats to hear the published writers read their work.

Eckles was the first to read. "All the Grief" featured several heartfelt poems about the loss of her mother, which she began writing a few months before her mother's death. Eckles has published several books, including a novel, an essay collection and other chapbooks.

Following Eckles read David Weinstock, who stood up three separate times to share different verses of his poetry. Weinstock has led Otter Creek Poets, a poetry group based out of the Ilsley Public Library, for more than 20 years. His poems have appeared in several literary journals and magazines and he has also published his own collection, "The Amalek Poems."

Before he began reading, Weinstock joked that the old saying that Vermont has more poets than dairy farmers has begun to wield truth.

The sound of unanimous flipping magazine pages could be heard during the reading as the audience members followed along with the next 11 readers, all first announced by Dubberly. Many of the readers have been published by Zig Zag before and already knew Dubberly, while others came up when he called their name and he shook their hands, readily meeting them for the first time.

The work read aloud included poetry, prose and a comedy sketch titled "A Very Septic Christmas" by resident Steve Holmes, which he acted out with board members of Zig Zag. The pieces touched on themes of relationships, trips to Aspen and encounters with actor Don Johnson, Vermont farms and heritage, teaching at a public high school and plenty more.

Between readings, Dubberly made note of the photography and art that was displayed throughout the magazine. One piece of art was by Middlebury student Rose Robinson '24.5.

The magazine and chapbook were both printed on paper booklets with attractive covers. The magazine's cover was designed by Caitlin Sausville, the hand-lettering artist in Middlebury known for her ubiquitous signage work for businesses in town, perhaps most famously on Haymaker Bun Company's seasonal drink menu. As the featured artist of the issue, her work comprises not only the "Read local. Write local." mantra that sprawls the magazine's cover, but also the floral designs that adorn its table of contents or "ingredients," as the list is titled in the issue.

Dubberly founded Zig Zag shortly after he moved to Vermont in 2015. Within a week of living here, he started a writing group out of the Bixby Memorial Free Library in Vergennes — now known as the Addison County Writers Company — and has met every week since its inception. Discovering local talent through this group and other writing groups elsewhere in the county, Dubberly worked with the Bixby library to get a grant community fund to create Zig Zag.

Their goal was to receive enough grant money to pay for the first two issues, and then to have Zig Zag financially sustain itself by selling copies. For a few years, Dubberly used his own money to help fund the magazine, but it has since become financially sustainable on its own. Zig Zag publishes twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring around the time of the seasons' equinoxes. They print 100 copies of each issue and sell them for eight dollars each at the release party. This can usually then fund the printing of the next issue and additional small projects throughout the year. Zig Zag donates its leftover copies to libraries, Monroe Street Books or The Vermont Book Shop.

Dubberly described Zig Zag's editing board as a living organism. Its members have changed throughout the magazine's nearly 10 years of publication, as serving on the board is all volunteer work. The current members are Dubberly, Trish Dougherty, Penelope Wade, Serena Kim, Phineas Knowles and the intern Johnson, who were all at the event helping to run it. Each member comes from a different background — Wade is an English teacher, for example, while Kim runs the Swift House Inn with her husband Matthew Robinson. Dubberly said that everyone has a slightly different style as well, rounding out their process when it comes to selecting submissions and editing.

The board receives about 200 submissions for each issue, most of which are poetry and photography, and must work to choose which to publish, aiming for about 20 pieces total. With a 64 page limit, the team reads the submissions and checks "yes" or "no" on a spreadsheet and the submissions that earn a unanimous "yes" make it in the magazine. The team debates, argues and eventually reaches agreement.

According to Dubberly, the board is adamant about looking for variety in the work they accept, aiming to not be just another standard poetry magazine.

In an interview with The Campus, Knowles agreed with Dubberly's vision and commended the breadth of content and aesthetic choice that comprise their submissions pool.

"Sometimes you have very literal, straightforward stories and sometimes you have this very esoterical, dreamlike poetry and sometimes seeing artwork and photography and just the spread of artwork in Addison County. It's quite amazing to see," Knowles said from behind the food and beverage table, where he was pouring attendees cups of cider.

Zig Zag's release parties are hosted at different locations around Addison County. They have recently taken place at the Swift House Inn, the Tourterelle Restaurant & Inn and the Willowell Foundation, a non-profit educational organization in Monkton, Vt. They draw in small crowds of the published writers and artists and their families, but also a number of locals who come simply to support the local literature and art, some of whom routinely collect a copy of each issue, according to Dubberly.

Resident Caitlin Gildrien, who stood up to read two of her published poems from the issue, is a returning writer for Zig Zag. "I love the opportunity to gather with poets and writers and artists and meet people who are interested in those things and hear — there's such a strong community of artists in Vermont and so it's great to actually be able to meet those people in real life," she said.

Zig Zag is currently accepting submissions for Issue 18, set to be released in Spring 2025, and will continue to do so until Jan. 5.

Eliza Bernene / the middlebury campus
Editor-in-Chief of Zig Zag Jay Dubberly spoke at the Issue 17 release party, announcing each reader before they came up to the microphone to share their work.

Eliza Bernene / the middlebury campus
The editing board of Zig Zag from left to right: Serena Kim, Zara Johnson, Phineas Knowles, Jay Dubberly and Penelope Wade.

CHIM CHIMNEY BAKERY COMES TO MIDDLEBURY

By KATRINA SCHWARZ
Local Editor

This summer, Middlebury's main street gained a charming and unique addition known as Chim Chimney Bakery. Open Thursdays to Saturdays from noon to 7 p.m. and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays, Chim Chimney specializes in a Hungarian pastry known as a chimney cake.

Formed out of a pastry (and not cake), the dough is shaped into a cone and baked before being filled with a variety of options, ranging from the sweet to the savory. Sweet cones are filled with homemade gelato, while more savory offerings feature a dough made from Italian herbs, fresh garlic and cabot cheddar cheese. Current menu options include a warm apple pie cone and a salisbury steak cone, although these selections often change based on ingredient availability.

Chelsea Griggs, the owner of Chim Chimney, has lived her whole life in Middlebury. In an interview with The Campus, she explained that, as the previous owner of the Inn on the Green, she has had experience serving breakfast for hundreds of guests, but had never baked on a professional level prior to owning Chim Chimney.

"Baking was a bit of a change. It was always a hobby of mine, I was constantly a foodie but was never cooking for the public," Griggs said.

Griggs was first introduced to the concept of chimney cakes by the social media platform Pinterest. A self-described Pinterest fan, she stumbled upon the "doughnut cone," a cone-shaped pastry filled with soft serve ice cream. She made it her mission to locate a bakery that sold these cones, and eventually stumbled upon a spot called Eva's Original Chimneys located in Toronto. After a trip to sample the cones there, she began to experiment with baking them at home, which resulted in her daughter planting the seeds for what would eventually become the name of Chim Chimney Bakery.

"It was a lot of trial and tribulation at home, figuring out how to create something that we could cook in an oven to replicate these. While making them at home, my daughter asked me what I was making and I said that I was making chimney cones. She thought that was quite interesting and started singing the Mary Poppins song 'Chim Chim Cher-ee' while we were baking and that's kind of how we started with the name Chim Chimney," Griggs said.

After much trial and error, Griggs decided to fully commit to the chimney cake learning process. She quit her job and went to Hungary to stay with family, where she enrolled in a culinary school dedicated to teaching the art of baking chimney cakes.

"After going to Europe and really seeing how these were made, spending time with people that have done this their entire lives, it was just a really fun process. It allowed us to be artistic with the design and creative with the flavors," Griggs said.

Upon her return, she opened a food truck selling her cones to measure public interest in chimney cakes, which led to the eventual purchase of the Chim Chimney location on Main Street. With previous experience working in the rental real estate market, Griggs opted to redo the building and decorate it herself.

"We were able to find some Mary Poppins-like touches, like the umbrella fixtures, our kites and our spoon full of sugars," she said.

Griggs explained that all of Chim Chimney's wares are baked or made from scratch from local ingredients. On a typical week, she spends her Mondays picking up supplies from several different farms. Tuesdays are dedicated to making gelato and sorbet from fresh ingredients including milk and cream from Monument Farms, as well as berries that often determine the flavors available in the bakery later in the week.

"I never know our menu ahead of time," Griggs said. "I just am inspired by what's available at that time."

The chimney cakes are baked daily, a process that takes several hours to accomplish, which is why Griggs begins her workdays at 5:30 a.m. on days when the bakery is open. Every couple of hours, a new batch of cones is produced. Griggs' family currently helps with day-to-day bakery operations, where her mom, daughter and two stepsons work often alongside her. She is hoping to add to her team soon as the bakery continues to grow.

Chim Chimney's menu will be expanding for this upcoming winter. Apart from the standard cones, Griggs plans to serve soups as well as purchasing an espresso machine.

"Downtown Middlebury can get a little quiet after five p.m., so it would be nice to offer a place where you can still get espresso or a latte after the evening hours, " she said.

Griggs is looking forward to providing a space where Middlebury community members can come together, like how the now-closed Ben and Jerry's did throughout her childhood in town.

"I just hope everyone feels welcome to come by and try our treats, and just say hi! It's lovely meeting everyone and getting to know everyone that's on campus. We are definitely excited to meet more people," she said.

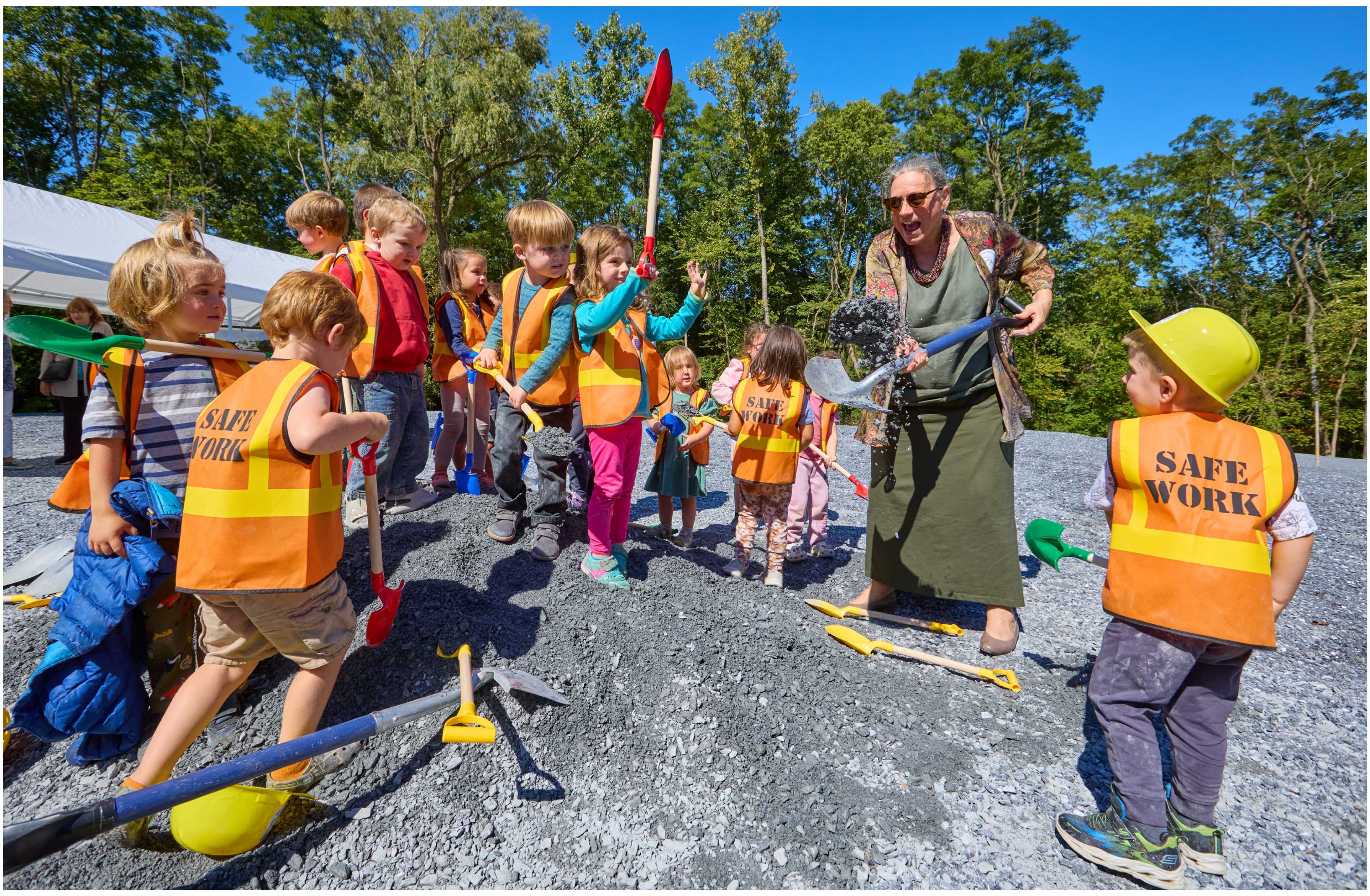
Chim
CHIMNEY

Courtesy Photo / Chelsea Griggs

Chimney cones are cone-shaped pastries.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK:

President Laurie Patton joins young students at groundbreaking ceremony on Weybridge Street



Courtesy Photo / Todd Balfour

President Laurie Patton broke ground with Addison County children at the new location for the Otter Creek Childcare Center. The construction and renovation is predicted to be completed in fall 2025, offering 13 classrooms, office spaces, three playgrounds, a parking lot and a commerical kitchen.

CAREFUL, NOW

Op-Ed

***Will Mortell** is a member of the class of 2026.*

The recording room at Summit Sound Studios, located in Southeast suburban Nashville, Tenn., looks like it could be the living room in your typical home: a worn leather couch against one wall, a piano by the other, with tapestries and houseplants for decoration. The only thing that gives away the room's true purpose is the microphone standing on the center of the floor and the sound-proofing material lining the walls. Yet this homey feel can be incorrect. It is an intimate, vulnerable process. This past spring break, my a capella group, the Dissipated 8, recorded a four song E.P. in Nashville. This recording process, along with my past experience in singing, reaffirmed why music, and vocal music in particular, are supremely powerful artistic forces.

Every singer develops a routine to make themselves more comfortable while recording. Some wear the same outfit to the studio, some warm up their voices for the same amount of time before every session, others drink the same brand of tea out of the same mug. When I went to record in a professional studio for the first time my routine was simple: I would turn off all of the lights in the studio so the room was nearly pitch black and the only illumination was the flashing panel I used to control the volume of the metronome and demo tracks.

The a cappella scene at Middlebury seems, at first glance, infused with a sense of fun and lightheartedness. Group names are alliterative or onomatopoeic (The Bobolinks, The Mamajamas, The Paradiddles), performance dress can be anything from jackets and ties to halloween costumes, and theatrical comedy is rife both between and during songs.

Despite this aura of easygoing levity, a cappella music is the heir to an incredibly rich musical tradition. Literally translated, "a cappella" means "in the style of the chapel," which references the long history of sacred vocal music beginning with the plainchant of the ninth and 10th centuries, when liturgies would be sung without instrumental accompaniment during church services. In the Middle Ages, monks at the Notre Dame cathedral began to add additional voices to augment these sung chants, creating one of the first examples of polyphonic harmony in Western music. Into the 16th and 17th century, vocal music played a critical role in the development of classical music.

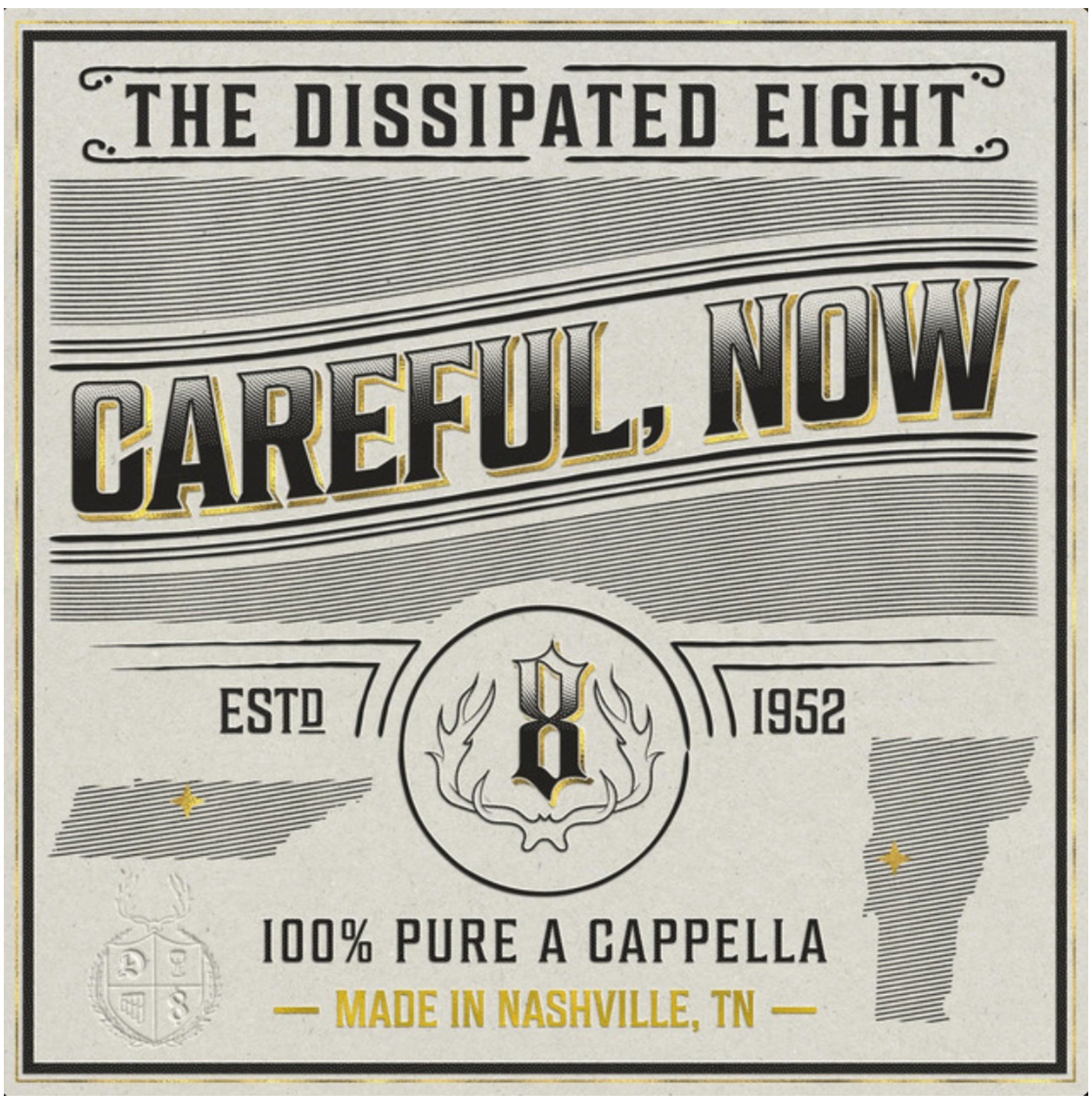
There is something uniquely intimate about singing: The music is produced directly from one's body without the filter of an instrument. As my voice teacher liked to quip, "You have nothing to hide behind when you're singing." This effect is, of course, amplified when there are no instruments onstage at all.

The human voice is also a singularly capable instrument. Throughout musical history, humans have been struggling to find a functional tuning system (how far apart each note on the scale is spaced). The modern system we use to tune guitars, pianos, and other instruments — known as 12 tone equal temperament — requires that some notes be slightly sharp and others slightly flat to create a sound that is more or less uniform across all 12 keys. The human voice does not need to make the sacrifices that instruments do. It is capable of infinitesimal tuning adjustments, even in the middle of songs, that allow for harmonic clarity and precision you cannot find anywhere else.

History develops music and brings me back to the recording studio in Nashville. Covering songs a cappella is more than re-recording what has been written, but involves arranging, brainstorming and developing new ways to continue a musical legacy that has lasted for centuries. A cappella at Middlebury remains very popular. We perform at our yearly freshmen Jambo concert, host concerts each semester, perform for Fall Family Weekend and tour around New England, taking Middlebury's musical talent into local communities.

Behind the funny group names, outfits, choreography, and other numerous and strange traditions that make up the Middlebury a cappella scene, it remains, at its core, the legacy of a long and storied musical tradition, that is, as I mentioned, supremely powerful.

The Dissipated 8's new E.P., Careful, Now is out on all streaming platforms and I hope you check it out. It is a testament to the community value of a cappella and the college's oldest a cappella group.



COURTESY PHOTO/THE DISSIPATED 8

Middlebury's oldest a capella group recorded a new album this year.

A call to stay engaged after the presidential debate

Op-Ed

***Charlotte Roberts** is a member of the class of 2025.5 and an Opinion Editor.*

Sixty-seven million people watched the presidential debate last Tuesday, which is 15.8 million more than who watched the one with Biden. I was one of those 15.8 million. It did plenty to reinforce my sense of disillusionment with American politics. But, I am attempting to fight back against the pull to let this disillusionment slip into complacency. That is especially difficult now that the school year has started. However, these next couple of months will be some of the most consequential of our lives. The ramifications of the upcoming Presidential election could be immense. So I would like to urge you, as I am urging myself, to stay vigilant and engaged in this political moment. Change is going to come either way, and we have to shape it.

For a lot of students, it can be easy to feel removed from the outside world while they're living on campus. Back in June, I was not particularly interested in consuming news media at all. I was home from abroad, living with friends in Middlebury, processing vegetables and feeling newly held by my world. Mostly, I got updates on the chaos of the world from Instagram graphics and emails from my mom.

When Biden announced he was dropping out of the presidential race and Harris said she was stepping in, that lit a fire under me. I have a hunch this was true for a lot of young Americans, which was part of the reason for Harris's entry into the race. I became the most informed about a current political moment that I've ever been. I listened to The Daily in the morning, followed by the entire hour of the Democracy Now broadcast. (My dear friend dubbed it Bad News Now.)

A little over a week into the semester and I've completely fallen off the news cycle. It is once again immediately obvious how easy it would be to live forever (or at least until next May) in this bubble of readings, friends, long dinners, good teachers, beauty, and abundance that is the shape of this fall. This is both the joy and failure of these small residential colleges — doing all the work of living and learning on the same patch of grass. The sense of isolation can be very alienting. "This is not the real world!" you may want to scream. "How can we be this disconnected from reality?!" The conversation about our strange, brief existence on this campus is ongoing. But I am feeling particularly aware of it, and agitated about it, in this political moment.

I did not watch the first presidential debate, but I did watch the second one. Trump's rhetoric was unsurprising, horrifying, and — we cannot forget, as outrageous as his rhetoric may sound — rooted in a very real historical precedent of xenophobia. Harris was biting and on message, and also hypocritical and frustrating. How can she call for a ceasefire without promising to stop arming Israel? How in 2024 is the Democratic candidate for President running on the myth that it is in the best interest of this country's working people, or even feasible, to continue fracking? The moderators, at least, were satisfying in their fact-checking.

As uninterested in the election as you may feel — because of the catastrophic failings of the Biden Administration with Gaza, because environmentally extractive industries like fracking have such a hold on Washington, or just because you feel consumed by your life on campus — it is essential to stay an active political citizen right now. In a particularly excellent episode of Democracy Now, Bill Ayer reminds us that voting is a "a practical, tactical move. It's not a moral question; it's a practical question." Another good one that my friend said to me: "We're choosing our opponent with this election." We have to hold both those things in our heads, the strategy and the morals.

My call to you, no different than my call to myself, is to stay engaged. Make sure you have your absentee ballot. (It matters even if you're not in a swing state because the sheer numbers of votes will add credibility to a victory.) If you're in one of these seven swing states that will determine the election, talk to your parents about voting, talk to your neighbors, the people you went to highschool with. This kind of interpersonal mobilizing is what works, drawing on the strong connections that we already have. This is the time when it counts, not in two months and not after you graduate, as if somehow we don't become political citizens until then. The privileges of our elite liberal arts school can do a lot to shield us from the outside world, but the change in this country will come for us all.

CHARLOTTE ROBERTS / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Weybridge House has been making provisions this past summer for its upcoming community dinners.

SPATIAL INSENSITIVITY

Op-Ed

***Charlie Grossman** is a member of the class of 2026.5.*

I'm often incensed by my peers' behavior here. I guess it is more of a mundane nuisance that has turned more intense — it unfortunately festers. My buddies all know how I love to rant about it-- they probably wish I'd quit talking about it. Larry David, in an episode of "Curb Your Enthusiasm," says, "I can't stand people. I hate people. I despise them."

What am I talking about? I'm talking about what happens in two theaters of campus life: the pathways and in the dining halls. I will now elucidate the common issues of the aforementioned areas, then propose solutions.

Pathways

Left from Right: Why do some people not walk on the right? Most do, but many — too many — do not. Maybe it's Brits, but I have faith in their ability to adopt different conventions. Usually phones have something to do with it, which brings us to… *Distracted Drivers:* People think they can walk on a path looking at their phone during passing periods. They selfishly forsake the spatial comfort of others for their flashy screens, emblematic of greater ills of our generation, pathetic behavior like this typifies the problem at hand. *The Clothes Line:* You get a group of three or more friends and they are shoulder to shoulder, taking up the whole path. The one on the end who's about to collide into you is either a distracted driver, or so engrossed in conversation that they can't be bothered to look in front of them. They force you to get out of the way. *The Ecosystem:* There are more than just pedestrians on paths: there are also skateboarders, bikes, and, worst of all, scooters. They can go faster and take up more space than a pedestrian, disclosing them as particularly bothersome. On a personal note, electric versions of these vehicles irk me. Fast, lazy, and dangerous.

KATIE FUTTERMAN / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Middlebury's dining halls frequently feature crowded lines at lunch.

Dining Halls

Scooping the Food: It shouldn't take more than five seconds to scoop a single serving of rice, beef stew or orange chicken onto your plate — yet it routinely does take longer for many students. The self server is lackadaisical and nonchalant, and the reason we must endure sprawling, lethargical lines in the dining hall. *The Meanderer:* This individual might have earbuds in. They don't acknowledge other humans as they saunter from station to station to see that their ends are met. Maybe moving fast, maybe moving slow, but regardless, in the way. *The Spacer-Outer:* In contrast to The Meanderer, this individual is typically sedentary. They will text someone, wrestle with gastronomic indecision, or simply ponder. Expectant diners are forced around them like a stream encountering a boulder. *Red Zones:* Behind the utensils at Ross and near the drinks at Proc and Atwater exist high traffic areas that demand attention at rush hour, but still attract the aforementioned characters.

Look Up

If you've made it this far, I want to tell you this: I know how I sound. My Dad called me a curmudgeon when I told him about my consternation. But I believe we can change this campus for the better. Here's how: Look up. It might sound silly, but I think if everyone walking up Chapel Hill at 11 a.m. on a Monday and everyone in Proc at 6:30 p.m. on a Thursday looked up, we'd notice. And if we used our brains, we might start a revolution.

ON FINDING A NEW ADMISSIONS PROCESS WITHOUT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

Middlebury has released the demographic information for the newly enrolled class of 2028 and the soon-to-matriculate class of 2028.5. These cohorts mark the first admissions cycle since the Supreme Court's June 2023 decision prohibiting the consideration of race as a factor in the admissions process. As a result, Middlebury has seen a shift from its recent trend of increasing racial diversity among each year's incoming class. This year, 26% of the first-year class are students of color, down from 35% for the classes of 2027 and 2027.5, and the lowest percentage in at least seven years.

While diversity is reflected in more places than just statistics, these numbers are disappointing. We acknowledge that the college is bound by the law and the threat of future lawsuits, but that does not require it to abandon its mission to foster a diverse Middlebury student body for incoming classes. We call for the Office of Admissions and the administration to work on building a more diverse applicant pool through not only external programs like Posse and Questbridge but the dedication of significant internal funding and energy to that effort.

In light of the ban on affirmative action, Middlebury must prioritize building an applicant pool with students of diverse backgrounds. As an institution, the college must move with greater urgency to align our self-conception as a globally engaged, globally representative institution and the makeup of our application pool. Like the few elite colleges and universities that have managed to not backtrack on their progress with diversity this year, Middlebury will need to reconsider and strengthen its outreach efforts. Admissions counselors from Middlebury should increase the number of public high schools they visit, as well as schools in low-income areas, in the South, and in highly urban or rural areas.

Partnering with organizations like the Posse Foundation and QuestBridge has proven a successful strategy in recruiting diverse incoming classes and providing scholars with a community once they arrive. However, as members of these groups have pointed out themselves, these cannot be the college's only strategies to increase diversity. From our knowledge, these programs can be unreasonably demanding, requiring students to go through two vigorous admissions cycles for a shot at an elite education. A high school visit from a Middlebury admissions representative has the potential to give students a more personal and detailed flavor of the college. Admissions representatives could also provide concrete tips for building a competitive application, filling in for the high-quality guidance counselor programs that so many public schools lack.

Some colleges and universities — notably Wesleyan University and Carleton College — have eliminated the favorable boost awarded to legacy applicants. We believe Middlebury should seriously consider following suit. Although keeping legacy admissions is arguably useful for fundraising and building intergenerational communities here, granting advantage to students whose parents studied at the college traps Middlebury in a cycle of admitting the typically white, wealthy students who have historically composed our student body. With affirmative action now missing from our admissions process, eliminating legacy admissions could be a strong strategy to counter the looming disparities to come.

Reducing the reliance on the Early Decision cohort to fill the ranks of incoming classes might also serve as a bulwark against the effects of an affirmative action-free admissions cycle. Students admitted via Early Decision are often white, wealthy, and from locations closer to campus, allowing them an ease of access to the school that other students may not have. Additionally, to apply to a school with the Early Decision option is to commit without knowing the details of a full financial aid package. This immediately rules out students whose commitment to a school is dependent on competing offers of financial aid.

In the immediate wake of the dismantling of affirmative action, it is both important and timely for the school to increase its support — whether through official messaging or through student organizations — for the students of color on campus, for whom the necessary affinity spaces currently exist under the threat of diminishment and marginalization. By the numbers, Middlebury has done a decent job within the past decade of increasing the proportion of students of color and first-generation students in each passing incoming class, but that isn't enough. Active interest and investment in the successful education and social support of these groups must not cease or falter when they arrive on campus; it is a project that should transcend the processes of application and recruitment, arrival and orientation.

It's disheartening that affinity groups such as the Black Student Union and Alianza are in fear of declining membership or diminished importance on campus. A diverse student body helps not only students of color to feel more comfortable and accepted, but also white and privileged students, who reap the benefits of different perspectives.

Middlebury claims to prepare students to "listen, communicate and take action in communities with a range of linguistic and cultural backgrounds" — yet that already lofty goal will prove near impossible if current trends prevail and the college becomes an increasingly monolithic and exclusive student body. If a global perspective and diversity in experience is so important to Middlebury's reputation, why shouldn't we be working to build first year classes that reinforce that very principle?

The Middlebury Campus

Susanna Schatz

The Middlebury Campus

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The Middlebury Campus

LAUNDRY DAY AND VUNDABAR ROCK START OF SEMESTER

By GUS MORRILL
Contributing Writer

As the sun set and a pinkish glow illumined the sky behind the Chapel, doors opened to Friday's fall concert featuring the bands Vundabar and LAUNDRY DAY, hosted jointly by the Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) and the college's student-run radio station, WRMC. At 7:30 p.m., students poured onto the McCullough lawn, covering the grass as the openers, LAUNDRY DAY, took the stage.

The New York-based quartet started their band while attending the same high school, choosing the name LAUNDRY DAY for their thrown-together, mismatched fashion sense. In fact, much of their presence has a DIY feel, most notably their satirical, cheesy boy-band-esque acapella covers filmed walking down New York City streets. However, don't let their nonchalance fool you; LAUNDRY DAY has built an impressive resume since their fledgling high school days, playing at the music festival and carnival Camp Flog Gnaw in 2019, and opening for big names such as Clairo, the 1975, and Ed Sheeran. Unsurprisingly, their performance on Friday did not disappoint.

The band opened with "Why is Everyone a DJ?", an anthemic track with crashing drums and ample swagger. This was followed by the fast-paced track "Dysmorphia" which asks the listener to "Imagine if you couldn't see yourself in the mirror?". Guitarist Henry Weingartner shone in this song, creating an energetic melody beforing peeling off into a solo. "Harvard" was next, a pop rock song that garnered cheers as the lyric "Harvard" was replaced with "Middlebury" throughout the performance. Then it was lead singer Jude Ciulla-Lipkin's turn to shine with "Crazy Stupid Love," showcasing his lively stage presence as he danced with his band and started a call and response chant with the crowd. "Girl from Lingeria" was a lighter track reminiscent of classic boy band music, while "We Moved On" was soulful and featured a solo by bassist Henry Pearl. One of the highlights of the night, however, was the song "Jane," where drummer Sawyer Nunes took center stage to sing a stripped back love song written when the band was in high school. The final two songs included the band's most popular track "FRIENDS" which is retrospective and warm, and had the whole crowd singing along. To close their set, LAUNDRY DAY played an unreleased song called "Life of the Party."

Following LAUNDRY DAY's energetic performance, Vundabar took the stage, clad in button up shirts and cast in blue light. Just like their openers, Vundabar formed when the members were still in high school. The band would drive from their hometown of Scituate, Mass. to venues in Boston, eager to take part in the city's music scene, but it was not until their single "Alien Blues" went viral that the band saw more mainstream success. Described by Audiotree as having a "rambunctious, garage and post-punk" sound, Vundabar's set on Friday was filled with energy and rich instrumentation. Standout songs included the band's most popular song "Alien Blues" which featured falsetto vocals interspersed with dark chugging guitar and the track "Oulala," which highlighted alternating staccato and drawn-out riffs. Many of Vundabar's songs contained multiple segments, quickening in pace then slowing down for a false-end before an energetic final conclusion. After the most frenetic outro of the night, Vundabar said their goodbyes and left to prepare for their upcoming nation-wide tour this fall.

Though both artists occupy different niches, one jocular and intentionally rough around the edges and the other unapologetically adherent to a sound all their own, their shared energy and talent came through on Friday for an unforgettable pair of performances.

Courtesy Photo / One If By Land
Jude Ciulla-Lipkin of LAUNDRY DAY sings as his band members play behind him.

Courtesy Photo /One If By Land
Vundabar's Brandon Hagen in front of a sea of Middlebury students on McCullough lawn.

June Su / the middlebury campus
The concert was co-hosted by MCAB and WRMC this fall.

COLLEGE ART MUSEUM UNVEILS AWE-SOME ART EXHIBIT

By NATHAN BERNAZZANI
Contributing Writer

Awe is an emotion many of us have felt throughout our lives, but one that has eluded a singular definition throughout its history. This concept has fascinated researchers since the 18th century, and has more recently undergirded Middlebury's newest art exhibit: "An Invitation to Awe", a project developed by Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture Katy Smith Abbott. Smith Abbott originally intended for the exhibit to premiere in the fall of 2020, however, the effects of Covid-19 delayed its debut until the fall of this year. On the evening of Sept. 13, Smith Abbott presented her opening speech for the exhibit to a crowd of over 150 eager attendees.

Smith Abbott was not the only one to have played a part in the making of this exhibition. In her speech, she thanked a number of fellow professors, colleagues and students who took part in one of Smith Abott's courses on awe that contributed to "An Invitation to Awe." Through a collaborative effort of research and curation, they helped create a final product which now not only serves as a testament to their excellent work but also to the sense of community that was built throughout the process.

"We had lots of time to connect with a bunch of different collaborators," stated Maddy Russell '26, one of the student contributors, in an interview with The Campus. "It's almost like a little family. You can spend your whole life trying to find something like that- your whole academic career trying to find a course that speaks to such [a] purpose … This is exactly what Middlebury was made for."

On the exhibit's opening night, the Museum of Art was abuzz with curiosity as attendees explored all that the exhibit had to offer. The pieces vary in form, ranging from visual works of art to auditory experiences and physical sensations, tapping into the sensory ways our bodies experience the complex emotion of awe. There are places where museum-goers can sit down and enjoy a segment of a podcast discussing awe, listen to sounds generated by a sculpture of metal rods and experience the beauty of Vermont's natural landscape from a virtual reality headset. The exhibit also houses pieces that highlight the negative aspects of awe, like feelings of hopelessness, dread and devastation, challenging our typically positive or affirming perceptions of the feeling . These "negative" depictions of awe include the first-ever physical print of a human flatline, a panoramic photo of thousands of life vests from immigrants who fled by boat to Greece and a seemingly larger-than-life patch from an AIDS Memorial Quilt in remembrance of the millions of lives lost to the crisis.

"On a college campus with a 'go-go-go' mentality, taking time for awe is [a] practice that can help us slow down and appreciate the intricacies and delights that occur when moving through the world" shared Mary Nagy-Benson '24.5, another of the student contributors, in an interview with The Campus.

Perhaps one of the most touching parts of the exhibit is at the very end. Walking through the exit doors one is greeted with the opportunity to share a personal experience of awe within the college community by writing that memory down on a slip of paper and hanging it next to the experiences of others. By the end of the exhibit's opening night, many had already contributed. A poem, a key change in a song, seeing the solar eclipse back in April, an unexpected plot twist in a book and even just something as simple as seeing loved ones in any context all featured in the display.

"I hope everyone who comes to the exhibit leaves with an invitation to … go through life with awe-colored glasses as a lens to see and not shy away from the gifts, terrors, hardships and beauties of the world!" said Nagy-Benson.

The exhibit also showcases the various ways in which awe is experienced in people's lives through the careful categorization and organization of the selected pieces. The awe of the natural world, awe through acts of humanity, and awe that is sacred or religious. This is how "An Invitation to Awe" invites its audience to consider the exhibit's core questions of "where and how is awe most prolifically experienced? Where and how do we find awe in our lives? What do we consider to be moments of awe?

"An Invitation to Awe" will remain at the Museum of Art for the duration of the fall semester, closing on Dec. 8, 2024.

Courtesy Photo / Middlebury College Scientific Equipment
Lantern slide depicting the Great Orion Nebula, c. 1880.

Reel Critic(s): Beetlejuice Beetlejuice

By NICOLETTA COUPE, JOSEPH FINDLAY and CATHERINE GOODRICH

Contributing Writers and Senior Arts & Culture Editor

Warner Bros., a notorious graverobber of pre-existing IP, has brought its 1988 cult favorite "Beetlejuice" back to life in an outlandishly amusing sequel, "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice." So long as Hollywood continues in its tradition of extending franchises, thankfully, a director with as much creative flair as Tim Burton is in on the scheme. "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" manages to braid together corporate marketability with Burton's signature quirk – a combination that marks a notable deviation from the trend of uninspiring sequels to beloved crowd favorites.

This Reel Critic, or should we say Reel Critics, is a slight departure from The Campus's regular programming. We – Nicky, Joseph and Catherine – are offering our three perspectives on the same viewing of "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" to discuss the efficacy of the film as a sequel. None of us have viewed the original in recent years, so if Warner Bros. is hoping to usher in the next generation of "Beetlejuice" fans, we're apt judges of their mission's success. With our respective tastes and outlooks, we hope to shed light on the value of "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" in contemporary times.

MICHAEL KEATON
WINONA RYDER
CATHERINE O'HARA
JUSTIN THEROUX
MONICA BELLUCCI
WITH JENNA ORTEGA
AND WILLEM DAFOE
BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE
THE GHOST WITH THE MOST IS BACK

COURTESY PHOTO

The film poster for "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice."

The film brings Beetlejuice (Michael Keaton) back from the dead to lust after Lydia Deetz (Winona Ryder) as she and her rebellious daughter Astrid (Jenna Ortega) cope with family tragedies. Lydia is a TV personality made famous for her psychic ability to communicate with the dead — she, like Burton, brings a Goth sensibility to the mainstream with a knowing wink. That is until she begins seeing visions of Beetlejuice and realizes their paths must cross again. Antics, entanglements and sidequests ensue; subplots abound, and characters both old and new blaze paths through Burton's ever-expressive story world.

We soaked in the magic of Burton's sequel from Middlebury's-own Marquis, where the main theater was packed with moviegoers of all ages. For Nicky, her experience watching "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" was beautifully flavored by the venue: she was sandwiched in the middle of an old leather couch with eight people, one elbow getting greasy in a bucket of popcorn the other jabbing a friend's midsection. She ate all of her candy during the previews then regretted it for the entirety of the movie which she spent half paying attention to and half considering the 70 acquaintances watching alongside us.

Indeed, it was hard to ignore the shared excitement that buzzed throughout the audience and the room was exceptionally responsive to the character of Delia Deetz (Catherine O'Hara) which we can only imagine implied a Schitt's Creek fan stronghold. O'Hara was the standout comedian of "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" in her portrayal of an overwrought artist with a flair for the dramatic, a perfect reawakening of her original character. Her performance complemented Ryder's pretty, pale and paranoid sensibilities and Ortega's angst and self-assurance. Keaton wholly delivered on his role as a campy villain and helped the film's various plots tonally cohere.

Stefan Eisler is a Little Seed Barista and was a fellow audience member of the movie. "Beetlejuice has the aesthetics of an acid trip but it's paired with the adventure of being stuck in a waiting room," wrote Eisler in a message to The Campus. "I'm assuming it was all fanfare and that other Burton movies have more thrill."

The three of us agree that while "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice"'s plot felt stale, the production design was well worth the price of admission. To Nicky, what the film may be lacking in substantive plot it makes up for this with an energizing score, sparkling costumes and sets and a lovable troop of suited-up skeletons with shrunken heads getting into all sorts of trouble. For Joseph, the production design was vivid and exciting with every costume choice and set piece being clever and immersive. And to Catherine, it could not have been more refreshing to watch a film that relied so heavily on human-made props, puppets, makeup, and costuming instead of software-created visual effects.

Burton certainly marinates in his artistic roots to great effect. There are epic scenes, like when a children's chorus performs Banana Boat "(Day-O)," when the original "Beetlejuice" house is shrouded in black gauze and a wonderfully surrealist dance sequence. These moments are so aesthetically powerful that many plot points feel obligatory, as if the storyline is a gesture toward a narrative structure rather than what Burton's audience came to see. And honestly, he's not off-base. Because "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" is so reliant on the appeal of its mise-en-scene, the plot is easily understandable for new viewers who might be unfamiliar with the original film. Not to mention, "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" has a great sense of humor. Unlike many washed-up franchise films that pig on callbacks and references to earlier works, "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" doesn't indulge in fan service without letting everyone in on the gag.

Without requiring much prior homework to enjoy, "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" is a refreshing departure from the modern sequel-ification of cinema. The film's authenticity prevails even while trying to balance its idiosyncrasies with a studio design.

Psst

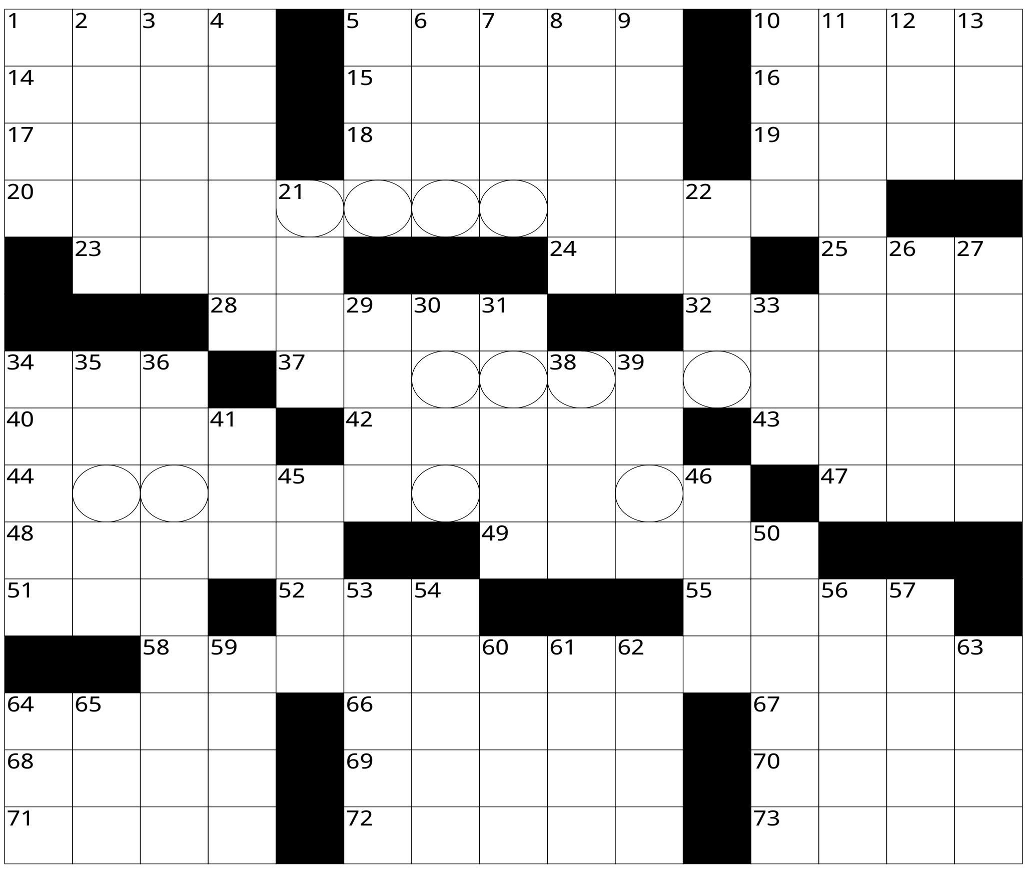
Avery Goldstein

ACROSS

1 Hunter's garb, for short
5 Happy as ___
10 Guns N' Roses guitarist Stradlin
14 Galway Bay's ___ Islands
15 Pursue
16 Word that proceeds head or end
17 Insignificant
18 Fortuneteller's deck
19 Smackers
20 Fix for a forgotten login credential
23 Queens stadium
24 Slice of history
25 Choke or joke
28 Merciless
32 "Nothing runs like a ___"
34 Sixth sense, for short
37 Pitbull's global alias
40 Flying start?
42 Smooth transition
43 Those, in Valdivia
44 Ones going through a terrible time?
47 Uno + due
48 Glum
49 Tree houses?
51 Rock's Brian
52 Techno and house music genre
55 Elusive Himalayan
58 Distribute the message, and a hint to the movement of this puzzle's circled letters
64 2022 WNBA champs
66 Finding ___ (research goal)
67 Economist Smith
68 Letter before gamma
69 Kobe Bryant, for one
70 Scandal suffix
71 Arterial blockage
72 Coarse cloth
73 Sized up

DOWN

1 Pitch a tent
2 Zones
3 Reed section?
4 "Gimme a minute"
5 Part of a Spanish play
6 Burn slightly
7 Pie crust ingredient
8 Stick out like ___ thumb
9 Taxi ticker
10 Inactive
11 Survey revealing Honor Code breakage
12 Stun
13 NFL gains
21 Toasty
22 DUI-fighting org.
26 Zeal



27 Birds in a gaggle
29 Celestial bear
30 Pitcher
31 Connect to a netwok
33 Ram's mate
34 Wonderland cake instruction
35 Attach, as a patch
36 Pop the question
38 Govern
39 Some string lights
41 "Listen up!" in Lima
45 Ogler
46 Eye affliction
50 Underground waste
53 Gave a hand?
54 Blu or Jewel in "Rio"
56 Yesterday, it was tomorrow
57 Livid
59 Jr.'s exam
60 Blue Devils' home
61 Beech or birch
62 Bovine bunch
63 Contacted on IG
64 "The Golden Bachelor" network
65 Cartoon frame

FIELD HOCKEY SQUEAKS BY BABSON TO CONTINUE UNDEFEATED SEASON

By JACK McGUIRE
Senior Sports Editor

The field hockey team (4–0) continued their undefeated start to the season after winning a 2–1 thriller against number four ranked Babson College on Sept. 15. Grace Keefe '26 scored with just 24 seconds left in regulation to propel the Panthers to success.

Middlebury's one goal victory was the smallest margin of victory the team has had this season in their quest for a seventh straight NCAA title. Babson is the highest ranked opponent the team has played all season, and the Panthers continued their success streak against the Beavers after beating them 3–0 in the NCAA semifinals last season. Middlebury is now 11–1 all-time against Babson, having also won eight consecutive meetings.

In the victory, Middlebury had to overcome an early deficit. Just four minutes into the game, Katie Guden scored for the Beavers to give them an early 1–0 lead. The Panthers fought back. While they did not score a goal in the first period, they were knocking on the door. They outshot Babson five to one in the frame, but could not find the back of the net.

However, in the second period, the Panthers broke through. Georgianne Defeo '26 scored the equalizer about four minutes into the period. Defeo's strike was her fourth goal of the season, tying Caroline Segal '24.5 for the team lead in goals with four.

Throughout the third and fourth periods, both teams struggled to put points on the scoreboard. Babson had no significant opportunities to score and took only one shot in the half, and while the Panther's offense was able to rattle off eight shots, many of them missed and Babson goalie Bayla Furmanek made three crucial saves in the final two periods. Keefe finally broke through for the Panthers right before the end of regulation to ensure victory. The game-winning shot was her second goal of the season.

The field hockey team's win extended their winning streak to 35 games. The team's current winning streak dates back to 2022 after they lost 1–0 to Trinity College. Before that loss two seasons ago, the team had a 42 game winning streak. The Panthers have the opportunity to best that streak this year.

The field hockey team's success this year has been driven from contributions from players across the team. Four players on the team have at least three goals this season, Segal leads the NESCAC in assists with six and Izzy Redzic '27 is fifth in the NESCAC in save percentage in her first season as the team's starting goalie.

The team's strong performance comes without significant goal scoring from star player Amy Griffin '24.5, last year's National Field Hockey Coaches Association Player of the Year. Griffin has just one goal in four contests this year. Last season, she averaged over one goal per game. Griffin, though, ranks third in the NESCAC in shots with 20. For a player of Griffin's caliber, over the course of the season, a higher percentage of these shots will probably reach the back of the net.

The field hockey team is set to play Amherst College (3–1) this Saturday on the road.

Courtesy Photo / Colin Bourque

Grace O'Keefe '26 scored the game winning goal in field hockey's 2-1 victory over Babson.

WESLEYAN ROUTS FOOTBALL TEAM 43–7 IN SEASON OPENER

By JACK McGUIRE
Senior Sports Editor

The football team's defense of their NESCAC Championship title from last season started poorly, as Wesleyan University crushed them 43–7 in the season opener. The home loss was the Panther's largest margin of defeat since a 48–0 loss to Trinity College in 2018.

From the first quarter, the team struggled to overcome Wesleyan's offense and defense. The Cardinals put up an impressive three touchdowns in the opening 15 minutes: a 41-yard rush from running back Tyler Flynn, a 66-yard pass from Niko Candido to Chase Wilson and a 40-yard punt return from Dylan Connors. The Panthers, meanwhile, failed to make any meaningful offensive progress.

Early in the second quarter, Middlebury had a scoring opportunity with the ball at Wesleyan's 10-yard line, but consecutive stops by Wesleyan on third and fourth down prevented the Panthers from converting in the red zone. Wesleyan added nine more points in the quarter, extending their lead to 30–0 lead by halftime.

The Panthers found the end zone once in the second half when quarterback Brian Moran '26 completed a five-yard touchdown pass to Brendan Logan '28, marking the team's first score of the season. However, the lone touchdown was far too little, too late. Wesleyan tacked on two more touchdowns in the half, adding 13 more points to their score, sealing the blowout over Middlebury.

Despite the lopsided score, Middlebury's skill players performed admirably in defeat. In his first significant appearance, Moran threw for 205 yards, a touchdown and an interception. His primary target, Patrick Jamin '25, had a great performance, hauling in seven receptions for 92 receiving yards. Last season, Jamin averaged 91.8 receiving yards per game and recorded four games with over 100 receiving yards.

Overall, the team struggled to convert on third and fourth down, limiting their scoring opportunities. The Panthers converted only four of their 18 third- and fourth-down attempts and only once in their three red zone appearances. This issue continues a weakness from last season. Despite ranking third in the NESCAC for total touchdowns last year, the team struggled with third-down and red-zone conversions, finishing sixth out of 10 in both categories.

This past weekend's loss against Wesleyan marks the second straight year the Cardinals stifled the Panthers. Last season, Wesleyan's 6–3 record handed Middlebury their only loss of the season. Their prolific offense led by Candido overwhelmed Middlebury by three points last season. This year they reinforced their dominance.

The Panthers head to Bowdoin (0–1) this weekend to play the Polar Bears and right the ship. Historically, Middlebury has played well against them, winning every head-to-head matchup since 2012.

Courtesy Photo / Will Costello

Ethan Vashel '25 catches a pass in the football team's season opener loss to Wesleyan.

DATA IS DRIVING MEN'S SOCCER'S DOMINANT START THIS SEASON

MIDDLEBURY
13
14

Courtesy Photo / Anna Sawin

Luke Madden '25 celebrates a goal.

By JONATHAN BUCHHOLZ
Sports Editor

This past Saturday, the men's soccer team (5–0) routed the Trinity's Bantams (1–3), continuing the Panthers' undefeated start to the season with a 9–0 victory.

Within the first six minutes of play, Middlebury already had two shots on goal, one of which resulted in a score by Gavin Randolph '26. Just a few minutes later, Eujin Chae '25 knocked in his first goal of the season. The Panthers went on to convert another seven goals, including two from Eduardo Casanova '26.5 and a second from Randolph. Middlebury's stalwart defensive unit, who have kept Trinity scoreless in their last five matchups, held the Bantams to just one shot all game.

The team has claimed that youthful energy and the culmination of data-driven changes in playing style over the past few years are major factors contributing to their strong performances.

The Panthers' boast a large crop of first year players (eight), some of whom are already making significant contributions on the field. One of the class of 2028's standout players is Antonio Cosentino '28, who has started in all four games this season, which the team's captains said was a particularly remarkable feat for a defensive player in his first season.

Winger, Keagan Harder '28, has also already found a role for himself and has scored two goals thus far.

"[Harder is a] super dangerous player. Vertically, he'll go at any defender — he doesn't care. If you're a NESCAC All-American, he doesn't care — he'll go at you," said Luke Madden '24.5, co-captain of the team.

The team also attributes data analysis techniques to recent success. Over the past several years, the Middlebury men's soccer team's coaching staff have been doing independent research to analyze professional soccer matches. Using data, they cater practices to focus on drills that lead to more goals. They are able to identify areas of the field that lead to more assists, depending on gameplay, and create scenarios in practice to help players get comfortable positioning themselves in these areas that have been proven empirically to result in more scoring.

The transition to a data-driven approach to training has been a gradual process, and co-captain Shane Farrell '24.5 said the system has really taken root this year. With an eager class of first years and upperclassmen who know the system already, it is clear why the Panthers have been winning games by larger margins than in past seasons.

When reviewing game footage, the coaches use software to count how many times players entered specific zones on the field and to determine how well the team is implementing the game plan. Madden told The Campus that the added level of structure makes it easier for him to play more freely, since he can be more confident in his decision-making because he knows the instincts the coaches train at practice are backed by data.

Farrell and Madden emphasized their confidence and excitement for this season. With 10 seniors on the team, a data-driven style of play and lots of energy from the class of 2028, they believe they can finish the job that was left incomplete last year. In the 2023 season, the Panthers bowed out of the NESCAC Tournament in the semifinals and lost in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament.

"We really do think we're capable of winning the NESCAC and hopefully going all the way to the national final four," Madden said.

The Panthers will test that dream soon enough: They have a road doubleheader this weekend, playing Amherst College (2–1) on Saturday and then heading to Connecticut to play Wesleyan University (3–0–1) on Sunday.

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WEST CEMETERY: AN OVERLOOKED CORNER OF CAMPUS

By JUNE SU
Multimedia Editor

While some may view the Middlebury West Cemetery as just a spooky shortcut to the Fitness Center, or a smoke-stop before a night at the social houses, others treasure the grounds as a trove of local and national history. This corner of campus represents an obscure enterprise of Middlebury College and contains a multitude of buried stories that whisper quietly to those who listen.

ATTENTION!
Before you dig or plant
you must
first contact
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Cemetery
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or 802-377-7290
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Jim Ralph, dean of the faculty and Rehnquist professor of American History and Culture, is no stranger to the intricacies of the West Cemetery.

"I knew, of course, that history had left its mark everywhere, but over time I became more and more drawn to the lived experiences of people on a local level. And the West Cemetery emerged to me as an open air museum of early Middlebury ready to be explored and full of fascinating stories," Ralph wrote in an email to The Campus, describing what drew him to this underrated area of Middlebury.

"Jim does guided tours of the cemetery at least twice a year, taking students, alums, trustees around and giving them information about people buried there," wrote Linda Williams, principal manager and treasurer of the West Cemetery, in an email to The Campus describing the role of Professor Ralph's expertise in running the grounds. She described her involvement with the West Cemetery in recent years, noting a change in the importance it received in the local community during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Cemeteries are a reality and an everyday part of village life. Being the treasurer (bookkeeper) is an old-fashioned job, definitely part time or as needed only. During the pandemic when people were more aware of their mortality than usual, we were selling up to 15 grave sites per year, whereas normally we might sell 2 or 3 per year," Williams wrote.

Take, for example, William Hazlett Upson (1891–1975), a prolific author of the fictional series starring Alexander Botts, a salesman for the Earthworm Tractor Company. Upson transcended his self-described "ergophobic," or work-hating, disposition to write years of stories for The Saturday Evening Post. His series on the traveling tractor salesman was eventually adapted into a 1936 Hollywood film, "Earthworm Tractors." Upson was also an advocate, founding the Middlebury Maternal Health Council and was a politician of sorts, representing Vermont as a delegate at the 1956 Republican National Convention. This produced presidential nominee Dwight D. Eisenhower and vice-presidential nominee Richard Nixon.

Upson's burial is relatively recent history compared to some other prominent figures such as William Slade, the 17th governor of Vermont and U.S. Whig Congressman. Slade lived for 63 years in the beginning of the 19th century, playing a role in critical moments in American history.

Author and historian of the Underground Railroad and Civil War Michelle Sherburne includes a vivid section on Slade in her book, "Abolition and the Underground Railroad in Vermont." Here, Sherburne recounted how the newspaper of preeminent abolitionist and journalist William Lloyd Garrison, The Liberator, called Slade "the first champion of immediatism in Congress." My slumbering AP United States History knowledge was refreshed when I learned that Slade vehemently opposed the gag rule, a series of resolutions passed in the 1830s and 1840s that prohibited the discussion of slavery.

Ralph remarked on Slade with special importance to the cemetery and local history overall.

"To me, [he is] the most interesting figure buried in the cemetery. I have always said that I want to learn more about him, especially because of his strong anti-slavery stance, and the Sheldon Museum holds his papers. What's more, his memorial marker is simply fascinating," Ralph wrote.

Photos by June Su / The Middlebury Campus

On the right side of the cemetery, if you are walking towards the Fitness Center, a taller obelisk grave marker will come into view. An engraving on the marker separates this plot from the rest.

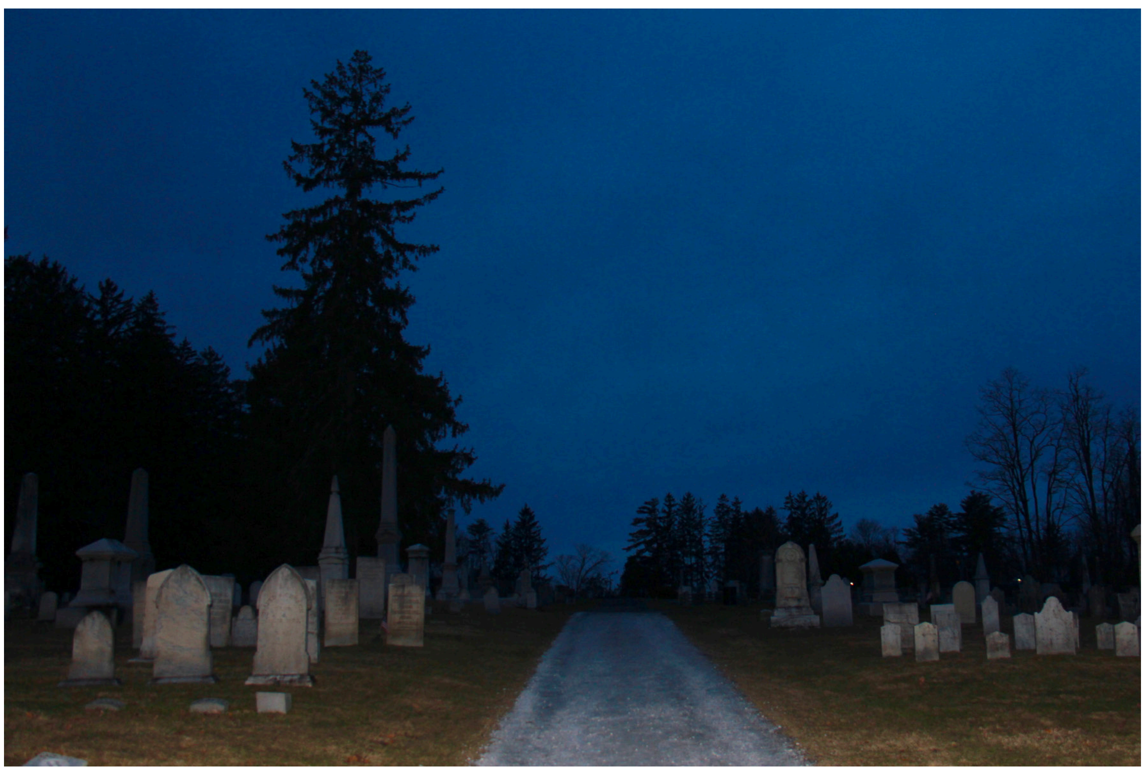
"In memory of Eliza Dodson, colored, born in the City of Washington, Died April 19, 1853, Aged 18…"

Sherburne explained that Dodson's mother likely gave her daughter to Slade in Washington D.C., where Slade was working as a senator, hoping to see her to freedom when Slade's family returned to Vermont. The decision to include Dodson's title on Slade's grave marker was radical at the time of his death in 1853 yet was characteristic of his lifelong commitment to abolition.

The two figures mentioned represent only a minor slice of the spiritual and historical library the West Cemetery represents. Regardless of what religious beliefs one might hold, the burial of dozens of unique, mortal lives right beneath our campus grounds presents us with an immediate opportunity to enrich our understanding of history, and for me, remind me of the historical moment I find my ephemeral flesh box lugging me around in.

Seemingly, this point of view poses a risk of existential crisis every time I stroll past the grounds. Linda Williams' practical view grounds my philosophical dilly-dallying, incorporating a necessary practicality in perceiving the West Cemetery.

"There's no mystery about cemeteries. Everyone will need to think about death at some point and make plans accordingly. To paraphrase Benjamin Franklin, "death and taxes are inevitable," Williams wrote.



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